

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 394

By Hurt

A RESOLUTION to urge the Governor, in consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Speaker of the Senate, to form an education task force to evaluate state testing, curriculum, and other mandated academic policies and procedures.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has made tremendous strides in education over the past decade and remains one of the fastest improving states in the nation for student growth; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, the General Assembly has made record-breaking levels of financial investments in K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bill Lee has demonstrated a commitment to supporting students and teachers across Tennessee in various ways during his first year in office; and

WHEREAS, Governor Lee has also proven that he understands the importance of preparing our students for technical schools, trade programs, community colleges, and traditional four-year institutions upon graduation from high school; and

WHEREAS, an important part of career readiness and aptitude in K-12 education involves assessing students through the use of state mandated testing; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has required additional mandates on school districts, teachers, and students in an effort to improve education outcomes; and

WHEREAS, such mandates, if they become overbearing, can stifle learning and growth in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the General Assembly are committed to supporting mandates only when they are necessary and helpful for students, teachers, and parents across Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge the Governor, in consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Speaker of the Senate, to create an ad hoc task force to evaluate, for their effectiveness and necessity, those state testing, curriculum, and other mandated academic policies and procedures that we impose upon our school boards, director of schools, principals, teachers, students, and parents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force should include members of the Governor's Cabinet, as selected by the Governor; a number of members of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor; a number of members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House; and a number of educators, school administrators, parents, and other Tennesseans chosen jointly by the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives as they see fit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies should provide assistance to the task force upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force should be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting should elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the task force deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the task force should report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to every member of the General Assembly no later than January 1, 2020.